

Sophie Tyler's Manifesto



Hi, my name is Sophie and for the past four years I have been heavily involved in the Trampoline and Gymnastics Club. I am in my second year as the Club's President, I am a level 2 coach and have spent a year as the Secretary. On top of this I have spent the past two years on the Volunteering and Engagement Team for the Student Sport Team. My goal is to build an AU that listens to all clubs and in which clubs can feel confident.

In the building of my manifesto I spoke to as many people from other clubs as possible and spoke to members of the wider Saints Sport team to find out if my plans were viable.

Club Development

As President of the Trampoline and Gymnastics Club my main goal was working towards a development plan. This covered all aspects of the club; from coaching to fundraising to socials. In its production I consulted the committee, coaches and ordinary members so that all perspectives were considered. I will use this experience to work with every committee to make sure they have a development plan for their club.

To help form these development plans I want to set up committee forums that are centred around discussion of intra-club issues and best practice sharing. These forums would happen with only several clubs at a time allowing everyone a chance to talk. It is easy being on a committee and thinking it is only your club that is struggling, but it is likely that another committee has faced the same issues as your club. These forums will be a great way to use the expertise of other committees in your own development. Furthermore, I also think it will be beneficial for committees as a support network and to remind you that you are doing a great job!

AU Development

As AU President I want to bring all clubs together to discuss the strengths and issues of the AU. Whilst no President can promise a solution to all problems within a year, I hope by bringing clubs together and identifying common problems we can take this information back to the wider Saints Sport team and identify what we can solve within the academic year and what we can start solving for the future. I hope this will allow clubs to have faith that the AU is listening to our problems and actively working to fix them, even if it can't happen within a year.

Transparency

Transparency is the word that all candidates love during elections and everyone else hates. I think more can be done to make it clear how decisions are being made within Saints Sport to build confidence that the AU is working in the best way for all clubs. However, I want to focus on building transparency between AU clubs, especially around training times. Rather than being worried training times will be taken away from clubs that have little turn out for particular sessions, I want to foster an environment in which clubs feel comfortable sharing that information so we can investigate inter-club sessions. This would allow clubs to get access to more training time whilst not disadvantaging

another club. I also think encouraging inter-club sessions can be great for club development and could allow clubs to have access to more strength and conditioning time.

I would also make a clear open-door policy, publicising when I am available and in the office each day so that people can pop by whenever they want.

Union and Wellbeing

I have spent two years on the Student Sport Team working as part of the Volunteering and Engagement Team. As a team we have instituted the new Wellbeing Officer position, pushed to have volunteering achievements more easily recognised on HEAR transcripts and have ran lots of campaigns promoting wellbeing, awareness and promoting engagement such as the University Mental Health Day celebration at the end of last academic year. Wellbeing is a common theme in manifestos and the AU has made massive strides in wellbeing provision. My experience on the SST gives me a unique position to push this further. I want to work with the Union, particularly members of the SRC and Association to improve engagement with the AU and also to get the outsider perspective on what we can do to build your teams and encourage more people to take part in sport!

I will also work with the DoSDA to improve engagement with the Saints Leader programme by making it more focussed on issues that clubs face.

Super Saints Sport!

I want to create an environment in which we are not just celebrating competition success. I will set up a 'what your club has been up to' social media and email blast in which all clubs will have the opportunity to send in a sentence or two about something fab that has been going on, whether that's the club has just qualified some new coaches, had competition success or have done lots of boring admin that will help the club run better! I would like to share this with the Saints Sport staff so they can see all the fantastic work that goes on behind the scenes with your clubs.

I would also like to create a Saints Sport pack with information about policies, procedures, FAQs and short bios on the Saints Sport team so clubs can know what the staff do and who they can go to for help. I hope this will help put a name to a face when people are in the Sport Centre. The pack will only be available online to continue making Saints Sport greener and to make it easier to update.

Thank you for reading my manifesto! I hope I have shown I have the experience and personality to be your next AU President. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions or suggestions. My goal is to build an AU that we can all have confidence in.